



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH &
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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New Memphis Mental Health Institute Opens, Holds Ribbon Cutting

Nashville - Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration (F&A) Commissioner Dave Goetz, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Commissioner (TDMHDD) Virginia Trotter Betts and Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton, hosted the grand opening of the new Memphis Mental Health Institute today.

A project spearheaded by the state, the new MMHI facility is the result of collaboration between the State of Tennessee and the Memphis medical community, both public and private, to improve the overall quality of health, pediatric and mental health services in Shelby County. Included in the collaboration were the State of Tennessee/Memphis Mental Health Institute, Methodist Healthcare System, The MED, UT Health Science Center, and Shelby County government.

"I am proud to say that this new, state-of-the art facility is the product of a public-private partnership that offers improved mental health and medical services to the citizens of Memphis and Shelby County," said Commissioner Goetz. "I would like to commend the collaborative approach of the folks at Methodist LeBonheur, The MED, UT, and state and local government who worked together to make this unique project possible."

The new facility is part of an overall expansion of health care services in the Medical District and Biotech Center of Memphis. The result of this project will expand LeBonheur Children's Medical Center, which will see an increase in the number of operating rooms, an expanded emergency department and increased research space, as well as enhance MMHI's partnership with the UTHSC's educational and research programs for psychiatry and mental health and the MED for improved crisis and medical services for persons with serious mental illness.

"We are extremely excited about this new building that will improve acute mental health services, as well as overall medical care in Memphis and Shelby County," stated TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. "This effort is the result of the hard work and partnership among many dedicated and persistent individuals, and I am grateful to be a part of such a successful collaboration."

The new 75 bed facility is located on 951 Court Avenue in the Memphis Medical District and Biotech Center on the site of the former UT Bowld and Dobbs buildings. The construction team broke ground at the site on April 27 of last year and stayed on target to meet this year's anticipated completion date. Patients will be moved into the new building on Monday, October 1.

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